

CHALLENGE

COMMUNIST

YOUTH

TODAY

HERE

ON

BRITAIN

AND

VIETNAM

NGUYEN

VAN TRU



ONE
SHILLING



REVOLUTION

Has any previous generation had to face such mammoth problems?

Robert Jung, scientist: "Increase of population has not been forestalled early enough... we are on a very dangerous slope." He estimates that the first real crisis in food supply (it really can be worse than it is already!) will come in the next 10 to 15 years. During

our lifetime, the world's population will virtually double. It will be our problem to feed 6,000 million people.

Rand Corporation computer survey: there is a one in five chance of nuclear war by the end of the century. Our chances of dying a natural death are as good as this, provided there is no further hotting-up of the international situation.

The same computer survey: machines will put one quarter of workers in the advanced countries out of a job—permanently—by 1975.

Is it really any wonder that young people all over Western Europe and North America are rejecting the values and the policies of a criminally sick Establishment?

These problems—half of mankind starving, the constant threat of nuclear war, poverty and dehumanisation in the midst of plenty—these problems must be solved by our generation. Otherwise, if there is a world remaining, it will not be fit to hand on to our children.

Some young people in Britain find the world's problems so overwhelming, that they "drop out" ("politics is pigshit", says *The International Times*). Others take various forms of practical and political action, in such organisations as Oxfam, Shelter, YCND, Youth for Peace in Vietnam, Young Liberals, Young Communists, etc. Enrolment of young people in organisations carrying out social service at home and abroad has doubled since 1960. Two sociologists recently found that there is a teenage obsession with and fear of nuclear war. 75 per cent of a survey put at the top of their list of wishes, that of insuring world peace forever.

Is this the generation they call "irresponsible"?

Barney Davis, Young Communists' National Secretary, pointed out in a recent newspaper article, that considering the propaganda deluge to which they have been subjected from birth, "today's youth should have been the most patriotic, flag-waving, send-me-to-Vietnam-please, anti-Communist generation yet."

"But"—as Dr. Leach pointed out in his B.B.C. Reith Lectures (giving palpitations to the Establishment)—"the young have seen through our absurdities... they are showing a refreshing determination not to be corrupted by our self-destructive scheme of values." The involvement of armies of young people in every humanitarian and progressive political movement (usually in the leading positions) should be seen as the most positive feature of the political scene; a development offering golden opportunities for the realisation of a better world.

The Tories have seen the writing on the wall and don't yet know what to do. The Liberals have a love-hate relationship with their expanding youth wing. The entire Labour movement, including the Communist Party and the rest of the Left, has hardly woken up to the situation. As ever, you daren't open your gob at a trade union meeting unless you have served in the 2nd World War and led 73 strikes. The unaccepted challenge before the Left is to give the youth an ideology. There lies the hope of the future. To be left groping for a sane world, is to be at risk of falling victim to apathy or reaction. This generation can and must be won for Revolution.

the editor

1968

GREETINGS

Greetings to all comrades and friends,
Greenwich YCL

Wanstead/Woodford YCL welcomes the New Year as one nearer to Socialism in Britain.

Leicester YCL greets comrades near and far

South Essex YCL sends fraternal greetings to all peoples struggling for Peace and Socialism.

Before making final holiday arrangements this year
send s.a.e. for information on our trips to Hungary

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

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South East Midlands YCL

send

New Year Greetings

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Ealing Young Communist League

first as always

wishes a Happy Easter to

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GREETINGS TO ALL YOUNG PEOPLE

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would like to wish a prosperous New

Year to all its members—wherever the

hell they are

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on this, the 9th year of the Cuban Revolution.

Secretary, 22 Homecroft Road,
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Pete Frost

fighting youth of vietnam



"The crab run." That is what they call this difficult section of winding road. The going is made even more difficult by the Americans bombing the road about thirty times a day, in order to stop our transports.

The Fifth Vietnamese Youth Battalion vowed that the vital traffic on the road would not be stopped. Their unit marched off through the jungle to see to the repairs.

Early in the morning the cold wind cut their cheeks. Their camouflage leaves, soaked by the rain, felt like ice on their backs. They marched heavily laden with sacks of rice and ammunition. Often their bare feet stuck deep in the mud. When bombers appeared overhead, they scattered and just as quickly reformed.

It took three days to reach the road, walking all the way. As soon as they arrived, work was begun, despite the constant presence of reconnaissance planes. Early on a young nurse was injured by an exploding time bomb. Realising that the road had been packed with such bombs by the American raiders, they first used mines to wipe out the time bombs, and then filled in all the craters.

Surprisingly it took only a short time to complete this the most difficult part of their assignment. Then they planted safety rails along the steep parts of the road. The anti-aircraft unit fired off three rounds to signal that the road was clear for the journey to the front line.

The Americans may be wondering how it is that the Youth Battalion could overcome the rain of bombs. It is because Vietnam belongs to us, to the Vietnamese people. The youth of Vietnam are from the people, of the people, and serve the people.

The U.S. is underestimating the fierce determination of the youth of Vietnam, who do not know the meaning of the word surrender. Wherever there is any difficult task, there you will find us. We all know that there is no difficulty which cannot be overcome if we dare to face it squarely and deal with it. To dig the mountain and fill the river is difficult indeed, but if you are resolute, you will know how to triumph.

pham thanh (vietnam)

Film of the Month: FAR FROM VIETNAM

Those who already know the score may become a bit impatient with this film. They may think it confused and indirect. But it contains nought for the comfort of Bomber Johnson and his hawks:

IT IS AN ASSAULT ON THE CONSCIENCE OF ALL STODGEHEADS —

—those who have not yet accepted the Vietnamese and all oppressed nations as human beings. It mercilessly attacks smugness among those in whose name Vietnamese blood is spilt, and Wilson has made sure that everyone of us in these islands shares this guilt, unless we fight to defeat the war criminals in Whitehall and Washington.

This film will lacerate many a rhinoceros hide:

"200 million people in the U.S.A. spend more on wrapping paper each year than 500 million Indians spend on food."

"One 'guava' mother bomb contains 300 guavas, which it scatters over a half-mile radius. Each guava has 600 steel ball

bearings, which are projected at chest level. Useless against concrete or metal, they are intended to tear through human bodies."

There are some beautiful sequences shot in liberated areas by Michele Ray, who went to Vietnam as a journalist on the American side, saw the set up for herself, and now gives the lie to Johnson's war.

This film is so good that, of course, it will be kept off the monopoly circuits. It is released by Contemporary Films—do your best to get it shown by a cinema in your area.

Johnny Satyricon



THE FINAN

INCORPORATING THE

THE GREAT MONEY TRICK

MYTH

"We are more strike-ridden than any other country. That's why we are losing trade." Here are the Ministry of Labour's own figures:

Country	Days lost per 1,000 persons employed during 1965	Percentage in 1966
Ireland	140	1.700
Canada	700	1.350
France	1,700	1.400
United States	800	800
Italy	470	7.20
Australia	200	7.20
Belgium	40	10.0
Prussia	100	2.00
New Zealand	30	2.00
United Kingdom	220	1.00

DUKEY'S CRAP MACHINE

Five sweet chicks in an office in Surbiton, Surrey, started it all off. There was a telegram from Dukey, and the *Daily Excess* headline screamed "Five girls Britain can be proud of". The firm's managing director said, "We are delighted, in fact overwhelmed". Small wonder—he has over 60,000 shares in the firm!

In April, 1966, the company reported a net trading profit of over £378,000, which adds to the wealth of the shareholders. Where did this profit come from? As explained above, only part of the surplus produced by the workers goes to them. A huge hunk of it is taken by the owners of the company. The workers are paid for only part of their working day. For the rest of the day they are *unpaid labour*. The wealth they create in their unpaid time goes to the shareholders.

In short, the Surbiton workers were *already* working unpaid overtime.

Of course, "it's all for the good of the country". There are pledges that increased profit will not simply go to the shareholders. What will happen to it? Will it be given as a bonus to the workers? Not bloody likely! That's not the idea at all.

The increased profit could be invested in new plant. That would mean even greater profits in the future. Even if it is just left in a deposit account, it will pick up interest. No matter what they do with it—short of giving it to the people who really earn it—the poor shareholders cannot avoid pocketing it sooner or later.

So let's have an end to all this bull about "I'm Backing Britain". What Boyd-Carpenter, Dukey, the *Daily Mail* and the rest of crap-machine are backing is the great god Profit, and their own bank balances.

THE HALF OF 1%

The Stock Exchange is a market in the shares of 5,000 British companies and many of the bigger foreign companies. It also has facilities for companies, local authorities and governments to borrow money.

Every year, about three-quarters of the profits made by all companies are re-invested in new machinery, buildings and additional stocks. This means that the value of the shares increases. Each year, the value of company shares goes up by £800-£900 million. These capital gains can be realised by selling shares on the Stock Exchange. In the meantime, there is the dividend income from the shares—up to £1,000 million a year.

Of all the company shares in personal ownership, about two-thirds are held by between 100,000 and 150,000 big investors. These are the people—about one-half of one per cent of the adult population—who are the big cheeses in industry, banking, insurance and commerce.

Come Socialism, they will be demoted to the working ranks, and the Stock Exchange will be closed down.

This classic lecture on "Money, the Principal Cause of being 'ard up" comes in chapter 14 of *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists*, by Robert Tressall.

Owen, housepainter and socialist, takes some bread: "These pieces of bread represent the raw materials which exist naturally in and on the earth. All the raw materials which are necessary for the production of the necessities of life are now the property of the capitalist class. I represent that class: all these raw materials belong to me."

"Now you three (Owen's workmates) represent the working class: you have nothing. And for my part, although I have all these raw materials, they are of no use to me; what I need is the things that can be made out of them by work. But as I am too lazy to work for myself, I have invented the Money Trick to make you work for me."

"I possess something else. These three dinner knives represent all the machinery of production: factories, tools, railways, and so forth, without which the necessities of life cannot be produced. And these three halfpennies represent my money capital."

"You say that you are in need of employment, and, as I am a kind-hearted capitalist, I am going to invest all my money in various industries so as to give you plenty of work. I shall pay each of you £1 a week—one of these halfpennies. A week's work will be to cut a slice of bread—raw materials—into 3 blocks—the blocks are the commodities you make—using a knife—the machinery of production."

The working class accordingly set to work, and the capitalist class sat down and watched them. As soon as they had finished, they passed the 9 blocks of bread to Owen, who paid the workers their wages.

"These blocks represent the necessities of life. You can't live without some of these things. You will have to buy them from me. My price is £1 each."

As they could not eat, drink or wear the useless money, they each bought back and at once consumed one-third of the produce of their labour. The capitalist class devoured 2 of the square blocks. The net result of the week's work was that the capitalist had consumed £2-worth of the product of the labour of others, and reckoning the blocks at their market value of £1 each, he had more than doubled his capital, for he still possessed the £3 in money, and, in addition, £4-worth of goods. As for the working class, they were again in precisely the same condition as when they started work—they had nothing!

This process was repeated several times: for each week's work the workers were paid their wages. They kept on working and spending all their earnings. The capitalist consumed twice as much as any of them and his pile of wealth continually increased. In a little while—reckoning the blocks at their market value—he was worth about £100, and the working class were still in the same condition as when they began, and were tearing into their work as if their lives depended upon it—as, in fact, they did.

After a while, having just relieved the working class of their week's wages in exchange for necessities, the capitalist took away their machinery and informed them that, owing to over-production, "All my storehouses are glutted with necessities, and I have decided to close down the works. Come round again in a few months' time and I'll see what I can do for you".

I want to join the Young Communist League

Name _____

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WHAT FUTURE FOR YOUTH?

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CIAL CRIMES

FINANCIAL STEWS

DEVALUATION

At one time, when a man wanted an axe, he exchanged a sheepskin for it, or made some other barter. Then gold—which is very valuable, because a great deal of labour is embodied in finding, mining, extracting and purifying it—became universally accepted in barter. Gold, as such, has very little use. Its main virtue is that it can be *exchanged* for more useful goods. Therefore, it is referred to as *money*. Nowadays, we have paper-money and base metal coins, which are supposed to be symbols for gold.

British companies exporting goods to another country, say America, will normally want to be paid in pounds. In order to pay, the American importer gets his bank to exchange some of his dollars for pounds. Likewise, British firms importing goods from America have to get pounds exchanged for dollars.

When accounts are settled between nations, the most-used currency is the dollar. So, if Britain's outgoing payments exceed the incoming payments (in other words, there is a deficit in our balance of payments) there will be a lot more pounds being offered for sale (for dollars) than dollars (for pounds). With dollars in short supply, their value will tend to rise (dollar-holders thus making a packet), while the surplus of pounds on offer will lead to a fall in the value of pounds.

Before devaluation, the exchange rate between the pound and the dollar was "fixed" at £1=2.80 dollars. Depending on the state of the balance of payments, this varied between 2.82 and 2.78 dollars. When the balance of payments deficit was very bad, the exchange rate tended to fall towards the lower limit of 2.78 dollars. The Bank of England would then intervene, offering to buy pounds at, say 2.79 dollars. Then all those firms wanting to sell pounds could get them at this rate, the pound did not fall below it. The Bank can only do this by taking dollars from its reserves. If it is in danger of using up all its reserves, it either has to borrow, or it has to buy more from America, using gold.

Last November, the pound's exchange rate was very precarious and the Bank had already borrowed aplenty. So the pound was devalued to £1=2.40 dollars.

The whole problem is aggravated by the fact that foreign bankers and traders are encouraged to deposit huge sums of sterling in London. The City wideboys use this money for rich investments. But when there is a draught in the City, there is panic and everybody wants to sell his pounds for a safer currency. This happened in the period before devaluation.

The balance of payments deficit has usually been about £100-£200 million each year. In 1964 it was over £500 million, and in 1967 it was about £300 million.

Now, there are some facts which have not been revealed by Wilson to the British public. It is true that since 1939 our imports have gone up 6 times. But our exports have gone up 10 times. In terms of trade alone, we have an annual balance of payments *surplus* of £300 million. This is turned into a deficit by overseas military expenditure of over £300 million,

GREAT GOD PROFIT

"Profits" are not just the reward paid to the wealthy for risking their money in business rather than lashing it all out on wine, women and song. There is more to it than that.

The production of the necessities of life is the result of people working by hand and brain to transform the raw materials provided by nature to meet the needs of society. In the process, the *owners* of the companies get *profit*, and those who do the work get *wages*.

At one time, back in prehistory, people could produce only enough to keep themselves alive (if they were lucky) and there was none left over. But as men became better equipped, they were able to produce a *surplus* over and above their own needs. It is from the surplus produced by workers in the many fields of industry that the capitalist of modern times gets his profit.

Any *Financial Crimes* reader who lives off his dividends (profits) may be getting hot under the collar by now: "My dividends pay for my managerial advice—I earn them!"

Well, it is true that some capitalists are in the office for a good two hours a day. But, in the main, the capitalist pays managers to look after the business, and goes off to some sunny paradise for the wintry nine months of each year.

"But what about the risk I take by investing my money!" If you didn't invest it, Old Cock, the money would not make more money. And there is not really much risk of Plessey, I.C.I. or Shell going bust. Is there?

The fact is, that in our highly complex society, production is *social*, but ownership of the means of producing wealth is *private*. In other words, although industry involves millions of people in vast factories, transport systems, servicing and distribution organisations, and administration, when it comes to the crunch, the greater part of industry is

and investment in overseas industry and commerce of around £200 million.

If we had a sane and honest government—which we haven't—it would (1) chop the whole of overseas military expenditure and capital investments, so that money could be spent on modernising home industry; (2) bring in import controls; (3) sell off overseas investments, so as to pay off debts; (4) increase wages and social security benefits, so that people can buy more, and industry can produce more; (5) nationalise the biggest companies, so that the real government is in Westminster, not the City.



Financial Crimes readers will not want to miss the next issue of *Challenge*. Available Saturday 2nd March, it is a Vietnam Special Issue.

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owned and controlled by a relatively tiny group of people. It is the most undemocratic set-up you could imagine.

How exactly do these boys make their profit?

Marx went into all this over a century ago, and basically it is still just the same. The capitalist starts with some money, with which he buys machinery, raw materials and labour power. He sets the labour power to work, takes the products, and sells them. Eventually, he recoups more money than he started with. This additional money is his profit.

We can see that the products can be sold for more money than the raw materials from which they are made. Something has been "added" to the raw materials, so raising their value. This "something" was the skill and energy of the workers involved. This skill and energy came from something the capitalist bought—labour-power. When the labour-power was set to work it created so much value in the products, that when they were sold, the money covered the costs of raw materials, machinery and labour-power, and still some was left over—the capitalist's profit. But this rake-off should go to those who produce it. The capitalist is able to swipe it simply because he owns the means of production (the machinery, etc.). This is what socialists mean by *exploitation*.

Rent, and interest on loans, are also the fruits of exploitation—money gained through the work of others.

In an average year in Britain, the wages and salaries bill runs at about £20,000 million, and rent, interest and profits total about £10,000 million. So about two-thirds of the national income goes to over 27 million employees, and one-third goes to about 2 million holders of stocks and shares. A spot of mental arithmetic will show which group—those who earn their living, or those who do not earn their living—gets the fattest pickings.

Another way of looking at exploitation is to say that the worker is paid for only part of his working day. He works for say, 4 hours to produce goods equal in value to the daily needs of himself and his dependents, and then he works on for another 4 hours for which he is *not paid*.

It is high time that this unjust system was ended.

Under Socialism, the entire surplus produced by society goes to those who produce it. Some is paid out in wages, some is paid into funds for housing, health and cultural services, and some is reinvested in industry for even greater benefits in the future. There are no capitalists (industry can run just as well, in fact, better, without them), exploitation is ended.

Comrades, the contradictions are deepening. The persistent gap between our sales income and production costs is leading us into ever more acute crisis. The solution of our problem can come only through a revolutionary change; a change begun in men's minds.

We need more collections and more individual donations each month for the *Challenge* Fund.

Sylvia
Challenge Magazine
27 Bedford Street
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by

Alistair Bucknell

Chairman, Youth Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

"NATO—Rest in Peace", is a phrase that will be heard often in the future. It is the title of YCND's new pamphlet, and is one of the slogans of our campaign for 1968.

In 1969 NATO comes under review. Britain's interests lie with the independent states in Europe, which are capable of looking after their own affairs. There is no need for such states to be part of alliances that are costly, and provocatively dangerous. We have only two years left to show where Britain's interests lie and to try and achieve a change of policy that will make 1969 NATO's final year. We cannot afford to rely on perilous nuclear balances any longer.

NATO was formed in 1949. In that year the Soviet Union tested her first atomic device, and in spite of her war weakened state, in the following years developed a nuclear force with astounding speed. In 1955 Western Germany attained full independence. Her admittance to NATO was followed within six days by the formation of the Warsaw Pact, a counter-alliance, behind the Iron Curtain, with a unified military command. So each step taken on either side in the post-war years was followed by countering action. And each further step increased mistrust and hardened antagonism between the Soviet and Western power blocs. This deterioration was intensified by America's

1957 decision to arm NATO with American-owned nuclear weapons.

The situation in Europe has greatly changed since 1949. The Soviet Union can no longer be regarded as a military threat to Western Europe. In fact America now spends three times as much as the Soviet Union on striking power, while the Soviet Union spends three times as much as the US on defensive weapons.

NATO countries have no unified idea of who they will be fighting, or of what sort of war they will be fighting if hostilities ever break out.

Most NATO countries no longer expect a war to arise, unless it is through military accident or political misunderstanding. The real military threat in Europe is the possibility of an accidental nuclear war. A mistake made with nuclear weapons would be completely uncontrollable. We face the situation where NATO is much less likely to prevent a war of aggression breaking out, than it is to be the cause of an accidental nuclear war. There are several workable alternatives to a Europe dominated by two military alliances. The Rapacki Plan put forward in 1957 by the Polish Foreign Minister calls for a nuclear free zone in Central Europe, in which no nuclear or ballistic weapons or bases would be installed by any power. An effective control system would come into being to be supervised by NATO and Warsaw Pact officials. Later, in the favourable atmosphere created by the absence of weapons of mass destruction, conventional arms and troops could be withdrawn completely.

There are many countries in Eastern and Western Europe that have shown their desire to be rid of the dangers inherent in the system of nuclear pacts. De Gaulle recognised that there is no longer any valid reason for maintaining NATO in Western Europe when he withdrew most of the French forces in 1965. There are indications that Denmark and Norway might quit NATO in 1969.

It is imperative that a strong body of public opinion in Britain tells our government that we don't wish to stay in NATO either. While we're bound to be most involved in trying to end the immediate horrors of the Vietnam war, we can't afford to forget about the dangers of war in Europe. The most effective way to reduce tension in Europe is to get rid of NATO. Representatives of the Soviet Union have repeatedly affirmed that when NATO is dissolved the Warsaw Pact will be immediately disbanded.

YCND think that this is a vital campaign for European peace and security. While we're working to let people know of the dangers of NATO, we'll need all the support we can get. 1969 will soon be here.



Among its members, NATO is proud to include such bastions of the Free World as Portugal, Greece and Turkey. Between its members there is that amity of nations which NATO strives to achieve on a world scale. Witness Greece and Turkey.

Le Monde reported on December 2nd, 1967:

Information has just reached us from Athens according to which an internment camp for under-20s was opened several weeks ago at Dionysos. . . .

A young man who recently escaped from this camp wrote: "The existence of this prison has been carefully concealed from world opinion. Most of the internees aged between 15 and 20 are members of the Lambrakis Youth (founded by Mikis Theodorakis). They are held in inhuman conditions. They even have to sleep on the ground. They are insulted and beaten daily. The food is rudimentary. Loudspeakers broadcast slogans and speeches by members of the junta all day long. The young people are subjected to systematic brainwashing. The 'difficult' ones are tortured."

BEATLES

MYSTERY

The most apt quotation from the film *The Magical Mystery Tour* was probably "Why?" Ringo asks this of Victor Spinetti in the scene, which most will remember seeing in *Oh, What a Lovely War*, and many people are asking it in connection with the film.

In retrospect I can see "why", or I think I can. But the immediate impact of the film was only confusion. In the Beatles's last two films, their obvious brilliance was allowed to shine because the directors knew exactly how to use the Beatles to their best advantage. But in this film—largely directed by the Beatles themselves—everything became far too subjective and lacked sophistication.

The fitting together of musical and visual images, a familiar jigsaw, came off successfully. As for the music—I leave that to Poppa, but musically the Beatles have reached a height few attain. One thing which did come over as successfully as it has done in the past was their humour. Odd cracks were almost side-splitting, and some of the old familiar slap-stick was there, but the mad, mad, mad humour which has endeared the Beatles to us, was, for the most part, lacking.

The "Alice in Wonderland" atmosphere was just the right one for this wonderful magical mystery tour, but it was not always sustained. I was not absolutely convinced that the film was not just an excuse for some nice songs and some beautiful, although not always relevant camera work.

As a satire on the "fun, fun, fun" attitude to life, both in the young and the old, it very

nearly succeeded, and some of the individual digs, at the four vicars playing blind man's buff, for instance, or at the sick attitude to sex manifested in going to strip clubs, were fine.

All in all, the film lacked direction and tried to say too many things at once. But it was not without qualities which should have allowed most of us to enjoy it.

SUSAN CURTIS

Paul McCartney's comment to the wets who "didn't understand it": "You couldn't call the Queen's speech a gas either, could you?" Too right, Paul, too right!

MAGICAL

There is no great leap forward. The Beatles's search, evident in all their records to date, has, temporarily at least, ended and they are content to explore for a while what they have found.

As with *Sergeant Pepper*, the words are of great importance and once again they are provided. They are needed. The exuberance of early Beatles's material tended sadly to overcloud the originality and frequent beauty of the words. "Help" is a prime example. Even now I find nuances in the "With the Beatles" and "Beatles for Sale" LPs which I missed at first through too easy acceptance of their obvious vigour. It's impossible to do this today. Even "Lovely Rita, Meter Maid" forces meaning upon the listener as well as inescapable beat.

These songs invite comparison with "Sergeant Pepper". "Magical Mystery Tour" itself has the same shouting mood and the same kind of rhythm change as in the title-tracks from "Pepper"; but both songs do the

same kind of job. They invite, cajole, insist, demand participation. "I am the Walrus" will be seen as a mixture of "A Day in the Life", "Good Morning, Good Morning" and "Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds". It's as captivating as the album cover for "Sergeant Pepper"—you keep coming back to it and there's always another face, another phrase which clicks.

All the songs, except the title song, are sad, introverted. Most of them appear in the film as dream sequences. Even "Magical Mystery Tour" has its sadness, because the hectoring turns to pleading. Once again the Beatles ring the changes in their choice of words. The "Magical Mystery Tour" is waiting, hoping, dying to take you away. And the song slips away in a quiet, thoughtful piano passage.

Memories seem once again to intrigue them: we remember "Penny Lane", "Strawberry Fields Forever" and "In my Life". "Your Mother Should Know" is in this vein: plaintive with repetitive words and a kind of hopelessness which I haven't noticed from the Beatles since "You've really got a hold on me", which they didn't write anyway.

That the songs have links with "Sergeant Pepper", doesn't mean that the Beatles have not progressed. They are moving around rather than forward. But many people associate their recent work—wrongly—with the trappings of flower power. And the public is rightly sick of its recent anaemic commercialisation and is turning away.

The question is: if the Beatles continue to move around rather than obviously forward, will the record buyers start to move away?

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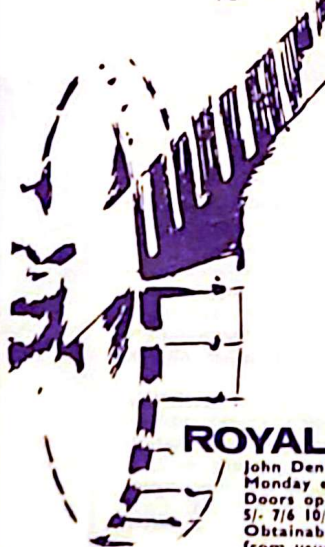
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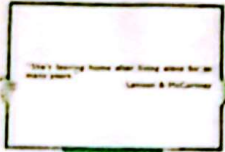
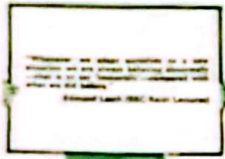
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BATTLE OF THE GENERATIONS



Daydreaming in my rocking chair, I can recall the days when news items about "youth" were rare and scant. They appeared only when a demonstration—either political or "anti-social"—took place. The tone of these items was always disapproving or condescending, often petty and usually misleading.

Today young people are continuously in the news. I never thought it would be so easy to get fed up with pictures of lovely fresh young faces. But I have done—almost.

Not fed up with youth itself, you know, but with the insane price tag that's been put around its collective neck these past two years. If you'll forgive the clichés of a responsible anarchist, all this exploitation is getting a bit too much.

What's behind this now taken-for-granted theory that youth combines the prime of life, the summit of experience and the joys of discovery, with all physical powers at a peak? How much of it is true?

And what about these barriers between today's insurgent younger generation and its parents, its teachers, its government? Are these walls that Nature intended? Or perhaps they are artificial ones; the product of a civilisation too busy for thoughts of human relationships.

We do know that man is conditioned by his environment. It is always to the home of an individual that we look when seeking solutions to the riddles of personality. Perhaps we look too closely there, not taking time to glance down all the alleys of childhood.

But there's no denying the basic influence of the family. The way your mother and father treat you is bound to be reflected in your own attitude to people older and younger.

Adolescence: how do we get through that? Hopefully, with as little bloodshed as possible. This, I think, must be one of Nature's barricades, the wall that often springs up at this time between parents and their children. In some cases it's not too bad—the combatants in the generation war pause occasionally and wave across to one another. In others, the scars of the battle never vanish, and some wolf-instant keeps alive the hostility between old and young.

The thing about adolescence is that (a) with greater parental understanding, the agonies of the young would be much less, consequently much easier for all concerned to live with, but, (b) as sociologists have pointed out, adolescence too frequently creeps into the home hand in hand with the menopause, and what can we do about that? Parents, especially mothers, are going through an experience which for some means complete emotional upheaval, and unless there's strong family feeling sitting around

somewhere, things are bound to be uncomfortable for a while.

What is new about the whole business is the rejection by young people of the old status quo. Religious and sexual ethics have been held up to the light and found stained, cracked, in need of replacement.

Is this a bad thing? No, it's wonderful. Youth are bidding farewell to all the blanket principles with which our minds have been so well covered. We are coming up with the understanding that religion and sex are both highly personal things, the practice of which can only be determined by honesty on the part of each woman and man.

Those who claim that youth is by definition irresponsible should examine this new morality carefully.

All this is wonderfully cheering. In contrast is the fear of time passing, which haunts most young people today. The fear not merely of growing old, of becoming physically immobile, of halting, fumbling minds and speech, but worse—of growing up. This is always just below the surface of conversation, of action. What is it that is so dreadful about the thirties, forties, fifties and beyond?

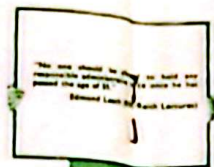
It is, do you think, fear of the world, a world to be played with when one has not many years, perhaps no children, and endless physical well-being, but which later, with problems of family, housing, health, becomes a grey morass into which one cannot resist being absorbed. This is a valid fear: one which all young people should take by the throat and kill, and then go out and build the sort of existence that will nurture rather than stifle, assist rather than thwart, the needs and desires of all the people of the world.

Right now, we are scrutinising the mutual fear that exists between the generations.

A great deal of this fear is simply a promotion job well done. In Britain the system is always in there making sure that young people know how fantastic it is to be young, and how dreadful not to be. It makes sure that older people know how threatening is the moral degeneracy of all these fiendish sprites "Flower Power" (I know it's now boring, but I just want to make a point) illustrates so well this Greek comedy of a system. Think over all the advertising, all the shop windows, all the clothes, all the music—and all the money that a handful of people probably love-love-loved all the way to the bank. The same class of people have been reasonable, all along, for warning the elders of this and other nations to beware and mistrust this dangerous new generation with its clothes, its drugs, its immorality. Merely a new variation on an old theme—class warfare, as always, supervised by Capitalism & Co.

I suppose that the thing to keep remembering is the constant questioning among today's youth. This is surely a good sign for the future, because whether their interests are political or mystical, they wonder at the inequalities with which we are constantly faced. Consequently they are giving the system a bit more to worry about, which can't be bad.

NELL MYERS



Dick (20) and Sally (19)—seen above—have been living together for six months. They live in a fairly communal household in Fournier Street, the centre of the Jewish rag-trade, in East London. There are five or six couples in the house.

Dick, Sally and another girl share the weekly rent of £2 10s for the three rooms they use. This is a good find, especially as there is no landlord on site. When the first left home, Sally roomed with another girl for £7 10s a week in Earls Court. The Spanish-speaking landlady supplemented the rent by pinching the girls' cigarettes and gear. When Dick moved in, they were all slung out.

Later they paid £8 5s for a room—a "furnished" room, with curtains hanging together by hope.

The original nucleus of the Fournier St. place was the group called The Social Deviants. Most of the kids there work part-time—just enough to get money for rent, food and a few goodies. Dick and Sally are the only ones working full-time—for Perspective Designers, who specialise in cardboard furniture.

There are similar communities all over London's inner suburbs, and around the coastal resorts in summer. They come from all parts of the country, and are mostly from professional or middle class families. "Working class kids are more inclined to grope for respectability.

They sit at home until they get married" (Sally).

Sally's parents are not fully in the picture about the Fournier St. set-up. "But I'm on the best of terms with them, although I can't tell them things. They just don't understand."

Dick left school just before his O-levels, and Sally just after them ("couldn't stand it, it was a girl's school").

A one-time YCND and YS member, Dick has given up "until politics cheers up a bit." He is sick of "Wilson for Christ."

Vietnam? "Stop it. The Yanks are wrong" (Sally).

Drugs? "Sure we've tried them. Those who take non-addictive drugs are the kind of people who will take you in for a night if you haven't. Hard-drug addicts are completely different."

"All the publicity has done more harm than anything else."

Marriage? "There isn't really a lot of point in it. You don't know how you will feel after 5 years—or even 5 minutes!" (Sally).

Religion? "I was a Christian for some time, and I suppose I still am. But I would have them staring at me in Church in my short skirts" (Sally).

"The easiest thing is to be a Christian hypocrite—as long as you don't know you are a hypocrite, because then you would start having a bad conscience" (Dick).

At the moment you are young, unorthodox, free, uninhibited and anti-establishment. How will you stop yourself becoming depressed into typicality? Will you buy a house, have

kids, money troubles and a tale? You can hardly avoid doing that. But will you allow it all to turn you into apathetic lumps?

Christ, I hope not!

Aren't you impressed by your contemporaries in the rest of the world? Just look at their tremendous efforts of construction in the Socialist countries. And what about their part in the liberation struggles in Asia, Africa and Latin America?

Don't be so parish pump.

A million kids like you if we were even more unified in our political outlook consistently warring against the ruling class, all its apparatus and its whole facade, we could make something of this country.

But what will stop us getting middle-age spread in the brain? What will bind us together? How can we make this springtime turn into summer? This is what worries me.

Colin Tardley

EXEAMUS IGITUR

Until a year or two ago it was unheard of for students in Britain to go on strike. Now it is, if not an everyday occurrence, at least an any day occurrence.

At Borough Road College of Education in London, for example, there was an official token strike for an hour, without any outside publicity, at the end of November. This was because of the planned imposition of the "box and cox" system, by which the student year is staggered and the college community fragmented into some "in", some "out" on teaching practice, some working at home and some on holiday.

To all the little strikes one has to add the widespread strikes, demonstrations and other actions in opposition to the increase of fees for overseas students on February 22nd last year. On that day of action, a majority of British students took some part.

Not least significant of the college-based disputes is that at Regent Street Polytechnic, which included a one day strike last term.

The government has ordered the re-grouping

and merger of the main non-university technical colleges into thirty-odd "polytechnics" scattered all over England and Wales. In its announcement the government pronounced in favour of full self-government for student unions and was not unfavourable about student representation in college government.

At Regent Street, the students' union conducted its own negotiations with its Governors during the summer and autumn, and came away with high expectations.

The students had asked for 10 per cent representation on the governing body, 25 per cent on academic committees and 50 per cent on any disciplinary body. All this was totally rejected in the Draft Articles for the college which appeared on November 21st. Even their own union was not to be autonomous. Hence the strike, and the demonstrations to the Inner London Education Authority.

The Governors have agreed to consider the question again on January 20th. So that date may be very significant for Polytechnic Colleges all over the country.

FERGUS NICHOLSON





THE CLIFF RICHARD STORY (as told to . . .)

A fairy story you all must read: the rise to fame of Cliff Richard, who was shipwrecked on the commercial music rocks and rolled there for so many years that he has now become a household word. Cliff's story is told in a delicate, fluent style. One can read it in between two headaches, because it is only a hundred and fifty two pages too long. David Winter is a close friend of Harry Webb, who is the hero of our story. Winter wrote the book.

(New Singer, New Song, David Winter, Hodder & Stoughton, 18s.)

HOW HARRY WEBB-FOOTED HIS WAY TO SUCCESS FROM HODDESDON

It begins with a much-harrassed Webb family leaving India and arriving in England and settling in Hoddesdon. It finishes with a tired Cliff Richard, thoroughly bored with success and turning to the swaddling clothes of the Billy Graham manger. Throughout the novel there are endless references to Cliff's bad digestive system, which managed to create sea sickness even on buses. The complaint ended with the effect of the sweet balm of success which came to this lucky man in 1958. His first big hits in Tin Pot Alley were such memorable gems as *Move It*, *Schoolboy Crush*, *My Feet Hit the Ground*, *Living Loving Doll*, *Living Dole*, *On the Dole*, *Why Wasn't I Born Rich?* *The Shrine on the Second Floor*, etc. All truly worthy contributions to the human predicament.

In 1960 Cliff said:

"After that first tour I knew that there would never be any other life for me. . . it's hard work, but it's fun, doing what we like best in the world. . . it's great sitting on top of the world. It's more fun being a success than a failure. . . and anyway you can have a better time because successful people earn more money." No doubt this profundity would make Oscar Wilde grave in his turn. Cliff is right in saying

that successful people earn more money. Of course, the unseen manipulators make plenty too. The odd thing is that the record companies and the abundant stars really believe that they are fulfilling a necessary function in society.

In his state of excess success, Cliff has adopted the biblical code as a plan for the morbid human condition on earth. Well, I'll not attempt to argue the merits of the Bible; one review at a time is enough for me.

The poor and unknown often take to spreading the gospel. Sometimes the rich and successful also turn to God. You can pray more sincerely when you are rich than when you are poor. A famous convert such as Harry adds to the prestige of God. After all, Christ is old hack. In any case, Jesus had long hair and a beard, and he wore a caftan and he was a rebel. . . everything, in fact, that our society is opposed to. He was also from the Middle East, probably coloured, and certainly indulged in male company to excess. I am sure that Cliff will go far, with his short hair and middle-aged views.

Anyway, read Cliff's story, especially in the trains, where there is nothing else to do.

(I'm not even sure why this literary occurrence should receive space in our political journal. Certainly Mr. Webb represents no threat to the progressive movement. Apathy and insane public thought are the enemies, together with the Ruling Grass.)

Stan Becow

THE THOUGHTS OF CHAIRMAN HAROLD

In the last ten years Harold Wilson has changed direction so often, and so quickly, that he has been in danger of overdoing it and vanishing up his fundamental orifice.

However, when it comes to pointing out these gymnastics to the "We love Harold" brigade, they are unable to remember the old Harold, as he was before he reached the top. To dig out all the speeches would be a mighty task involving reading thousands of words and consulting many books, papers, magazines, etc. But for the princely sum of 3s. 6d., you can have all this done for you.

This is exactly what Tariq Ali has done in his little book, *The Thoughts of Chairman Harold*. It quotes from some of Harold's speeches over the last ten years, printed without comment, and believe me they need no comment.

"We warn the Government with all the emphasis at our command, while there is yet time, that if the Chancellor's policies and pressures lead to intensified strife, with all the damage it would entail to this country and its export orders, the responsibility will be his. Do not let him look for communist plots. He will not need them." (Hansard, October 23rd, 1961.)

The book is illustrated by Steadman, whose grotesque cartoons grace *Private Eye*.

Rather expensive at 3s. 6d. for such a small book, and with too small pages to show the illustrations off to their best. Nevertheless it is an excellent book to keep on your shelf.

The Thoughts of Chairman Harold, by Tariq Ali, Gnome Press, 3s. 6d.



PETE FROST

NEO-COLONIALISM

Introduction to Neo-Colonialism, Jack Woddis, Lawrence and Wishart, 7/6d.

Firstly the book deals with the birth of colonialism as a natural consequence of the rise of capitalism. The need for increased supplies of raw materials for expanding home industries, the need for additional markets and the drive for high profits to be made from the exploitation of cheap resources and labour, led to the plunder and division of the world by a handful of major industrial countries. The economics of colonialism determines its political character:

"The political essence of colonialism is the direct and overall subordination of one country to another on the basis of state power being in the hands of the dominating foreign power."

With the victory of the 1917 October Socialist Revolution in Russia and the emergence of socialism as a world system after World War II, one-third of the world was placed outside the clutches of imperialism, and tremendous impetus was given to the national liberation movements in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Because of this change in the balance of world forces, imperialism was forced to change its tactics, resorting to the policy of neo-colonialism. Whereas colonialism means direct, undisguised, on-the-spot foreign rule, as seen to this day in Angola, Mozambique and South-West Africa, neo-colonialism strives to be more subtle. The country has its own parliament or legislature, whose power is largely usurped by the unseen foreign controllers of the pillars of the economy. Although the colonial administrators have gone home, a whole apparatus exists to perpetuate foreign domination of the economic, political and cultural life of the country.

One aim of neo-colonialism, that was not a feature of colonialism, is the endeavour to create a native capitalist class in the developing ex-colonial countries, so as to ensure development proceeds along capitalist lines. Therefore, one of the essential features of neo-colonialism is counter-revolution.

The character of neo-colonialism was defined in the Resolution on Colonialism and Neo-Colonialism adopted at the First Afro-Asian-Latin American People's Solidarity Conference, held in Havana, January, 1966:

"To guarantee its domination, imperialism tries to destroy the national, cultural and spiritual values of each country, and forms an apparatus of domination which includes national armed forces docile to their policy, the establishment of military bases, the creation of organs of repression, with technical advisers from imperialist countries, the signing of secret military pacts, the formation of regional and international war-mongering alliances. It encourages and carries out coups d'état and political assassinations to ensure puppet governments; at the same time, in the economic field it resorts to deceptive formulas . . . to reinforce its economic domination."

Jack Woddis backs this statement by a full and detailed account of neo-colonialism in the four main fields in which it is manifested: political, ideological, military and economic.

The motivating forces of neo-colonialism are its economic aims. A basic aim is to maintain essentially the same economic relationship between imperialist powers and the Third World as existed in the days of blatant colonialism. This means that in the plans of neo-colonialism, countries of the Third World are to remain as producers of raw materials, providing minerals, industrial crops and foodstuffs for Western industry and commerce, and to act as markets for Western manufactured goods. As long as this situation persists, underdeveloped countries will remain backward, indeed, their peoples will be driven into ever greater poverty.



Guerillas of FRELIMO, the Liberation Front of Mozambique.

What is the future of neo-colonialism?

Although imperialism is on the defensive, it finds new methods for perpetuating itself, such as neo-colonialism. But, just as colonialism creates its own gravediggers, so does neo-colonialism. By creating a weak capitalist class, incapable of solving the problems of the people, it creates its deadly enemy, which is the working class and its political organisations.

Just as colonialism was a temporary phase, neo-colonialism will also be but a temporary phase, although, as long as it exists, it will do terrible damage. The years ahead will see bitter struggles in the countries of the Third World. We live in the epoch of the rise of socialism and national liberation. Nothing can turn the tide of history and the march of the people of the world towards a better future. This is the determining force of our time. History is on our side.

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NEW YEAR GREETINGS

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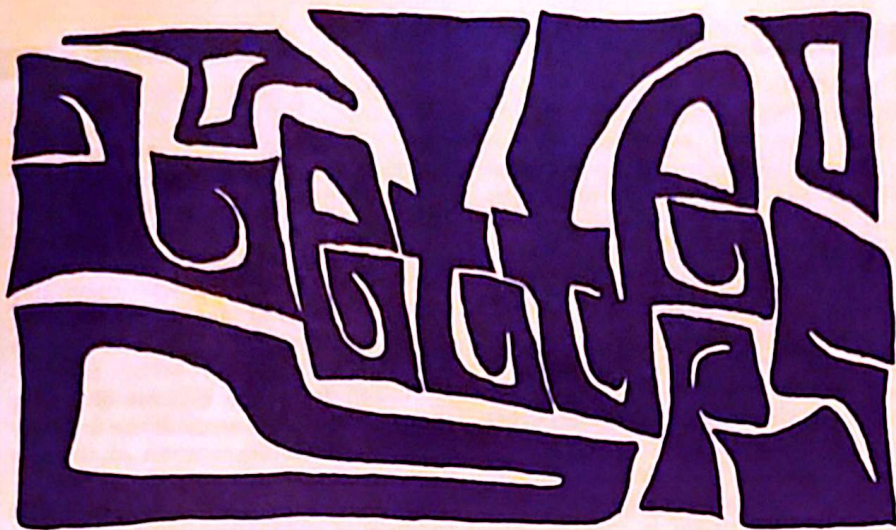
Greetings to all our friends, old and new, for 1968

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Just finished reading *Challenge* No. 2, and felt compelled to congratulate you on your fine work. *Challenge's* combination of Revolutionary Marxist theory with humour applied to the contemporary scene is sure to appeal to today's rebellious young generation. I am not too hip with the tastes of Britain's youth, but I know that a youth magazine with *Challenge's* style is desperately needed in the U.S.A.

While it is fast-moving, camp, broad slap-stick humoured, *Challenge* does not avoid the necessary, arduous task of educating the youth, and winning them to socialism. The statement on the 50th Anniversary is a case in point: "of course, we must not forget that the 50th Anniversary of the Soviet Union is also the 50th Anniversary of Anti-Sovietism." Thus, the 50th Anniversary becomes a living thing to Britain's youth, since it is associated with developments in their own country (anti-Sovietism). The magazine's consistent attack on racism (the Stephanie Sachs article is excellent) shows the YCL's political awareness. The deep-rooted racist character of our government and system makes us specially sensitive to racism, and appreciative of *Challenge's* work.

I was specially impressed with the magazine's appeal and concern with young workers. In our country, where the youth movement is presently overwhelmingly student-oriented, although changing rapidly, the struggle for a working-class approach is a very challenging one.

I learned a lot about the conditions of youth in Britain, and got a feeling for the political situation through *Challenge*. Thus, I would appreciate it if you would put us on your mailing list.

Roque Ristorucci
National Youth Commission
Communist Party of the U.S.A.
New York

Reprinted from *China Reconstructs*,
October 1967:

British YCL Oppose Their Revisionist Leadership

At the recent congress of the British Young Communist League grotesque slanders were uttered by the so-called leadership against the great proletarian cultural revolution. Nevertheless I am writing to assure you the hearts of the rank and file membership are sound. They are filled with love of the Chinese people, the vanguard of socialism, as I am myself.

This love of British communist youth for China cannot be suppressed by the bureaucratic trickery of officials who have taken the revisionist road.

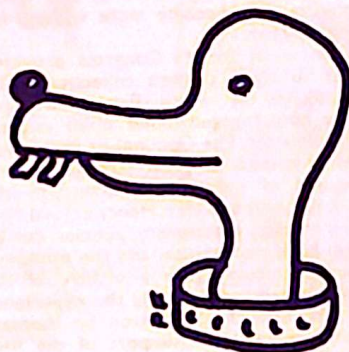
I am sure that the ordinary Young Communist League members who have taken to their hearts the thinking of Chairman Mao, that shines like a red sun in the hearts of the peoples throughout the world and leads their fight against U.S. imperialism and modern revisionism, will soon smash the "sandcastlism" of the bourgeois leadership of the British Young Communist League and emulate the triumphant Red Guards.

We pledge ourselves to resolutely oppose the monsters and dog-heads of the YCL leadership that has rejected Marxism in favour of the capitalist road.

Long live the proletarian cultural revolution!

Long live the thoughts of Chairman Mao!

Mary-Ann Hainel
Holmfirth



Portrait of the Editor as a young dog

SOFIA FESTIVAL

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One-minute poem

DWARF

At first convinced his height deficiency merely temporary
He found it easy to joke about.
"Yes, I am standing up." They all would smirk.
And even when the liquid tears were outgrown,
he sat alone and the oceans let loose
within his dwarfed soul.
Achievements, despite their outward indication
that he was just another member of society,
could never prove to him that he
was equal.
Afraid to mix, but when left to be his own friend
found he had a shorter friend than the rest.
So you—you who feel a fraction of the contempt
I feel for myself,
Do you possibly think that you could ever
look up to me!

Terry Lee Wright

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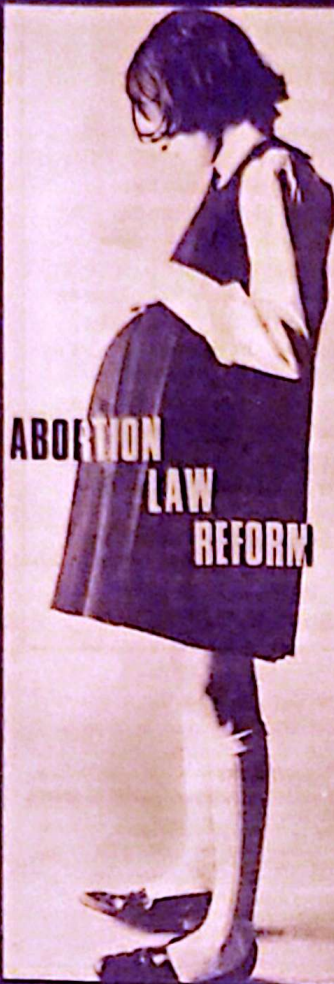
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The Abortion Act of 1967 has extended the legal grounds for abortion in two important ways: it includes consideration of the mental and physical health of any existing children in the family, and for the pregnant woman's actual and foreseeable environment. Hence, in theory, it will no longer be necessary to seek out the practising abortionist, but should be a simple process of consulting one's own G.P. who will only need the opinion of one other medical practitioner (not necessarily a psychiatrist).

One approves the measure but it clearly does not go far enough.

An overall criticism is that it very much favours the married woman since the Act's most radical innovation (the clause relating to the existing children) caters only for her.

This surely means that the unmarried woman who is unable to present a forceful enough case will once more turn to the back-street abortionist who will readily grant her an abortion. In any case, will she go to her G.P., particularly if she knows something of his attitudes?

The G.P. who rejects the idea that human beings can suffer from anything but physical ailments is still quite common. It can be questioned whether the reforms are actually going to make things easier for the woman who has only the clause relating to her mental

health to rely on. At least in the past she could see a doctor who she knew was predisposed to sanctioning an abortion. He would refer her to a couple of psychiatrists who expected a 10-minute scene and the matter was concluded: the abortion was "legal". The cost, of course, was something upwards of £100 depending on how pleasant the operation was. The new law has removed the hypocrisy and exploitation but at the expense of placing the woman at the mercy of the ordinary G.P., whose interpretation of the law is going to vary considerably.

Even if this group of women come to know of and appreciate the relevance of this new law (which is unlikely) and even if their particular case presents an indisputable ground for abortion, the question still remains whether they will take advantage of it.

Introducing a new Act on a subject like abortion will necessitate a change of attitudes on the part of those responsible for enforcing it.

As a change in law the Abortion Act is good as far as it goes but it has limitations. It caters only for the majority: married women. The problems of those hundreds of other women (and teenagers) who have unwanted pregnancies remain unsolved. Legal reform covering this group is surely what is needed. **VIVIEN COOPER**



Challenge invited Robin Blackburn to comment on last autumn's conferences of the Labour and Communist Parties. Robin, 27, is an editor of *New Left Review*, and co-editor of the NLR Penguin on the unions, *The Incompatibles—Trade Union Militancy and the Consensus*.

The Labour Party's Scarborough Conference was a sorry charade. It was not just that the Left failed to make any advance with its resolutions. Defeats can sometimes be milestones on the road to victory, if the battles are fought with principle and passion. But the struggle at Scarborough, with its petty vote-mongering and general confusion, failed to meet the true needs of the British working class. The elderly aldermen and suchlike assembled for the Conference were tired of politics—when the Vietnam resolution was discussed most of them trooped out of the hall to have tea. Callaghan's speech, with its open and vulgar admiration for the profit system and the British ruling class, was hailed as a masterpiece of economic analysis. Few appeared to suspect that devaluation was only weeks off.

Discussing the implications of the Confer-

ence, a trade union delegate from the North said to me afterwards that he thought the Labour Party was ceasing to be a party of the traditional social democratic type. I said that this seemed a drastic judgment. He replied that no matter how far to the Right parties of this sort may have been in the past, they were at least formally committed to building a non-capitalist society, and they often enjoyed the confidence of a great proportion of the working class. The spectacle at Scarborough, following the disastrous by-elections at Walthamstow, Leicester and Hamilton, and the GLC debacle—themselves the consequence of the pro-imperialist and anti-working class policies of the Government—showed that the Labour Party was now losing both of these characterising features. It had even ceased to stand for reforms of the system (the classic function of reformism), and was now publicly celebrating capitalism. At the same time, the working class was visibly abandoning its loyalty to its historic party. This assessment of the Labour Party, now being voiced by only a few party activists, may become more widespread in coming months.

The Communist Party's Congress provided a contrast to these sombre reflections. The bitter struggles in which British working people are now engaged found ample expression in the debates. The Communist Party once again demonstrated its great strength among the vanguard of industrial militants in the country. Lou Lewis and John Henry argued how the Government's reactionary policies can be fought, on both the political and the economic level. Bert Ramelson gave a picture of the industrial struggle, generalising the experience of local disputes. The resolution on Vietnam called unequivocally for support of the four points of the North Vietnam Government and the five points of the NLF—for immediate withdrawal of the US aggressor from Vietnam. Underlining the armed nature of the struggle,

readiness to send volunteers, should the Vietnamese call for them, was announced. These resolutions, on both the domestic and foreign fronts, now require militant action.

Theoretical debate at the Congress was noticeably weaker than debate on practice—reflecting the traditional empiricism of the British Labour movement. This lack of strength and sophistication will have to be overcome in case the estimations of the above-quoted trade unionist are true. For then the danger would arise of the vacuum created by the degeneration of the old reformist party being filled by the forces to the left of it correspondingly compromising their principles. A great historical opportunity would be missed if this were to happen. In such a situation, a Marxist theoretical steeling is the only safeguard against the dangers of being dragged to the right. The Congress showed its awareness of this problem by according central place to the debate on the new version of *The British Road to Socialism*. Some pertinent comments on it were made by Jimmy Reid, Monty Johnstone and Mike Long, in a vigorous discussion.

A fighting speech from Barney Davis of the Young Communist League stressed the crucial role of British youth in the battle for socialism, and the necessity for the Communist Party to be fully aware of this and act accordingly. One anomaly to an observer was the high proportion of veterans of the movement in the leadership of the party—three-quarters of the members of the Executive Committee are over 40. The tradition of the recommended list may perhaps be responsible for this.

The Left in Britain has been divided too long. Comradely discussion and criticism is badly needed today in all sections of the socialist movement. Let us hope that this welcome invitation from Challenge becomes an example to other forces on the Left of a new spirit of unity.

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